

10/031014

PATENT

531 Rec'd PCT/PT

10 JAN 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#5/A

AA

5/3/02

Applicants: Howard

Serial No.: TBA - Case No.: 20493P

Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

For: MELANIN-CONCENTRATING  
HORMONE RECEPTORPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the claims by canceling claims 2, 3, 18, 20, 21, 23-27, and 29-33 without prejudice to future prosecution and replacing claims as follows:

A1  
1. (Amended Once) A purified nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

A2  
4. (Amended Once) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises SEQ. ID. NO. 7.

A3  
9. (Amended Once) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

A4  
11. (Amended Once) The expression vector of claim 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes for SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

## EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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DATE: 1/10/02

A5  
19. (Amended Once) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8, wherein said polypeptide is substantially free of associated proteins.

22. (Amended Once) A method for screening for a compound able to bind a MCH receptor comprising the steps of:  
AL6  
(a) expressing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or SEQ. ID. NO. 6;  
(b) providing to said polypeptide a test preparation comprising one or more test compounds; and  
(c) measuring the ability of said test preparation to bind to said polypeptide.